

Meeting of the Children's Cabinet

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Patrick Henry Building, West Reading Room

1111 E Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23219

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: First Lady Pamela Northam, Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax, Secretary Daniel Carey, Secretary Atif Qarni, Secretary Brian Moran

Members Absent: Secretary Bettina Ring

I. Introduction

First Lady Pamela Northam welcomed the Children's Cabinet and the members of the public attending the meeting. She discussed the experiences that she had on her Back-To-School tour visiting schools and early childhood programs across the Commonwealth. The First Lady noted the interest in the Children's Cabinet that was expressed at her visits and the energy that is supporting efforts to address challenges that children, families, and communities are facing.

II. Update from the Work Group on Early Childhood Development and School Readiness

Chief School Readiness Officer Jenna Conway provided an update on the Work Group on Early Childhood Development and School Readiness. She summarized the group's discussion on integrating early childhood data into the Virginia Longitudinal Data System what questions could be answered by an early childhood data system. Chief Conway highlighted the next steps that could be taken to better integrate early childhood data into VLDS as part of an effort to build an early childhood integrated data system.

Chief Conway also discussed the presentation that the group heard on home visiting in Virginia. She discussed the recent JLARC Early Childhood Study and the responsibilities with which the General Assembly charged Early Impact Virginia.

Lastly, Chief Conway made note of a funding opportunity that is available in the form of the Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five.

III. Update from the Work Group on Nutrition and Food Security

Assistant Secretary Heidi Hertz recapped the focuses of the work group and discussed food security, access to healthy foods and the role of the Children's Cabinet. She emphasized access for pregnant women and expanding the Virginia WIC program. Assistant Secretary Hertz highlighted the goals of the work group and discussed next steps for addressing each goal.

Assistant Secretary Hertz identified two strategies that could support the efforts of the Children's Cabinet and sought feedback from the members of the Children's Cabinet. She presented the idea of the work group assembling a blueprint report that could provide concrete strategies and recommendations for ways to accomplish the goals of the Children's Cabinet in the area of nutrition and food security. She also discussed a strategy that could assist the Commonwealth in compiling data from across the state and seeing where there is limited access to food. Assistant Secretary Hertz presented the idea using the hunger vital sign and food security questions promoted by the American Academy of Pediatrics in questionnaires and screenings across the state. In addition, she proposed the idea of the work group working together to provide a clearinghouse of information to connect populations identified as food insecure with resources. The Children's Cabinet discussed the benefits of these strategies and were supportive of the proposals. They identified potential areas in which agencies and the work group should collaborate.

IV. Presentation from the Work Group on Student Safety

Assistant Secretary Nicky Zamostny and Chidi Uche provided an update from the Work Group on Student Safety. They discussed the presentations that were included at the third meeting of the Work Group on Student Safety, which were Promoting School Wellness, Research on School Resource Officers, and The Culturally Responsive Framework: Building Global Mindsets. Assistant Secretary Zamostny and Ms. Uche also presented on the recommendations that were developed by the work group.

Assistant Secretary Zamostny and Ms. Uche discussed the recommendations developed by the work group with regards to (1) enhancing information-sharing and effectiveness of threat assessment teams, (2) the role and prevalence of school resource officers and school security officers, (3) suicide prevention, (4) staffing levels and ratios of school counselors and support staff, (5) community, school and university educational training, and (6) physical security.

Secretary Moran motioned to endorse the recommendations of the work group and the Children's Cabinet unanimously endorsed the work group's recommendations (Secretary Ring absent).

V. Public Comment

Dr. Sandy Chung from the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics provided public comment and discussed a grant that has been received.

VI. Adjournment

First Lady Pamela Northam closed the meeting by thanking the members of the Children's Cabinet and those in attendance.